

CITY OF FRIDLEY
CHARTER COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 1, 2016

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Reynolds called the Charter Commission meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Commissioners Gary Braam, Don Findell, Marion Flickinger, Manuel Granroos, David Ostwald, Barb Reiland, Pam Reynolds, Lois Scholzen, Cynthia Soule and Richard Walch

Members Absent: Commissioners Ted Kranz, Rick Nelson, Novella Ollawore and Avonna Stark

Others Present: Deb Skogen, City Clerk/Staff Liaison
Mayor Scott Lund

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Braam MOVED and Commissioner Flickinger seconded a motion approving the meeting agenda.

UPON A VOICE VOTE, ALL VOTING AYE, CHAIRPERSON REYNOLDS DECLARED THE MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Two small changes to the minutes were made, correcting the spelling of Avonna on page 1, and changing Commissioner Saefke to Councilmember Saefke on page 2.

Commissioner Braam MOVED and Commissioner Reiland seconded a motion approving the Charter Commission meeting minutes of November 5, 2015, as amended.

UPON A VOICE VOTE, ALL VOTING AYE, CHAIRPERSON REYNOLDS DECLARED THE MOTION CARRIED.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

A. Commission Vacancy

Ms. Skogen stated she has received no applications for the vacancy created from the expiration of Commissioner Borman's term. She will again advertise on cable, in the SunFocus and on the web site

It was also suggested that if people attend their precinct caucuses that they notify the attendees of the vacancy.

B. Appointment of Nominating Committee

Chairperson Reynolds appointed Commissioner Walsh as Chair of the committee and Commissioners Ostwald and Scholzen as additional members. The Committee will meet after the meeting to prepare a Nominating Committee and provide that report to Ms. Skogen to mail out to the Commissioners to meet the requirements of the bylaws.

C. Commission Bylaws

Chairperson Reynolds asked if the Commission could receive Bylaws from other Charter Commissions to use as examples. Ms. Skogen said most city charter commissions only meet annually, as required by state law, unless there is the need for discussion or change to their charter. She did not think other cities had bylaws.

Chairperson Reynolds said a question was brought up last year about the Nominating Committee meeting via telephone. She did not think that the Nominating Committee violated the open meeting law because she felt they were not subject to the law because it was not a quorum of the body.

Ms. Skogen said according to her training and research, the Nominating Committee was subject to the open meeting law as they were a committee of the Commission but would do additional research to find an answer and provide it to the Commissioners prior to the next meeting.

Chairperson Reynolds wondered what the purpose was for electing officers annually and wondered if it couldn't be done bi-annually.

Commissioner Reiland said that would be possible but the bylaws would have to be amended to reflect that change.

Commissioner Soule thought it would be a good idea to review the bylaws annually.

Chairperson Reynolds said a staff liaison was created in 1978 and wondered if that should be added to the bylaws under the duties of secretary. Ms. Skogen said the last sentence could be changed to reflect that suggestion.

Commissioner Findell asked if he could prepare language for the Commissioners to review at their next meeting and they all agreed he could.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Skogen provided an update on the request from CenturyLink to obtain a cable television franchise. She said a public hearing was held on December 28, 2015 to take public comment on the issue and a final report had been provided to the City Council determining that CenturyLink had a valid application and met the basic requirements. The City Council adopted a resolution allowing CenturyLink to begin negotiations with the City. CenturyLink will work with the City's attorney in this matter to prepare a franchise similar to that of Comcast by an ordinance.

Commissioner Soule asked if there was any way to consider a service level for outages.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Scott Lund said citizens were observant about what is going on around the City. He said the last meeting was long but it was good to see citizen participation.

He said the Cielio Apartments will begin leasing apartment space in the first building. There are 102 apartments in the first building and it seems to be very popular. When the project is completed there should be a total of 256 apartments.

Mayor Lund provided an updated on the Columbia Arena site and the City's direction to relocate City Hall and Public Works together on the site, along with other uses such as housing.

FUTURE MEETING TOPICS/COMMUNICATIONS

Administrative Matters

Election of Officers

Update on Vacancy

Update on Amendment to Chapter 6 Ordinance

New Business

Review of Charter Commission Bylaws

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Soule MOVED and Commissioner Braam seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting.

UPON A VOICE VOTE, ALL VOTING AYE, CHAIRPERSON REYNOLDS DECLARED THE MOTION CARRIED AND THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:52 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Skogen, City Clerk/Staff Liaison

Commissioner Donald Findell, Secretary